



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

648 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2713


JOHN F. KRATTLI
County Counsel

February 12, 2014

TELEPHONE
(213) 974-1861
FACSIMILE
(213) 229-9924
TDD
(213) 633-0901
E-MAIL
pwu@counsel.lacounty.gov

TO: SACHI A. HAMAI
Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors

Attention: Agenda Preparation

FROM: PATRICK A. WU 
Senior Assistant County Counsel

RE: **Item for the Board of Supervisors' Agenda**
County Claims Board Recommendation
Charlie M., et al. v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. TC 021 812

Attached is the Agenda entry for the Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation regarding the above-referenced matter. Also attached are the Case Summary and the Summary Corrective Action Plan to be made available to the public.

It is requested that this recommendation, the Case Summary, and the Summary Corrective Action Plan be placed on the Board of Supervisors' agenda.

PAW:rfm

Attachments

Board Agenda

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation: Authorize settlement of the matter entitled Charlie M., et al. v. County of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. TC 021 812, in the amount of \$375,000 and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Department of Children and Family Services' budget.

This lawsuit concerns allegations of abuse of minors while in foster care under the supervision of the Department of Children and Family Services.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Charlie M., et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	TC021812
COURT	Los Angeles County Superior Court
DATE FILED	July 2, 2008
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Children and Family Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 375,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Vana Parker Margolese Matison & Margolese Roger Senders Gregg Goldfarb Law Offices of Roger S. Senders
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Takin Khorram Deputy County Counsel Social Services Division Tomas Guterres Christie Bodnar Swiss Collins Collins Muir + Stewart
NATURE OF CASE	Alleged sexual, physical and emotional abuse in foster care
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 679,420
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 123,000

Case Name: Charlie M. v. County of Los Angeles



Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for attachment to the settlement documents developed for the Board of Supervisors and/or the County of Los Angeles Claims Board. The summary should be a specific overview of the claims/lawsuits' identified root causes and corrective actions (status, time frame, and responsible party). This summary does not replace the Corrective Action Plan form. If there is a question related to confidentiality, please consult County Counsel.

Date of incident/event:	1994 through 2007
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	The plaintiffs alleged that they were subjected to physical and emotional abuse; including, but not limited to frequent beatings, starvation and sexual abuse while they were placed with their paternal great aunt.

1. Briefly describe the root cause(s) of the claim/lawsuit:

The plaintiffs contend that they should not have been placed with their parental great aunt because of her criminal history and the numerous referrals that were alleged during her service as a foster parent. The plaintiffs also alleged that DCFS should have known who was residing in her home.

2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:
(include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

The Department had policies and procedures in place at the time of the incident with regard to relative home assessments, monthly contact requirements and exceptions, and criminal exemptions. The Department continues to update these procedures and policies to ensure child safety.

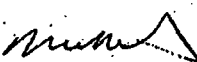
County of Los Angeles
Summary Corrective Action Plan

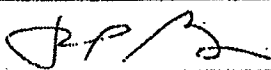
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3. Are the corrective actions addressing department-wide system issues?

☒ Yes – The corrective actions address department-wide system issues.

☐ No – The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator)	
Michelle R. Victor	
Signature: 	Date: 12.5.13

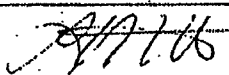
Name: (Department Head)	
PHILIP L. BROWNING	
Signature: 	Date: 12.19.13

Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY

Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the County?

☐ Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide applicability.

☐ No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this department.

Name: (Risk Management Inspector General)	
Leo Costantino	
Signature: 	Date: 12/6/2013